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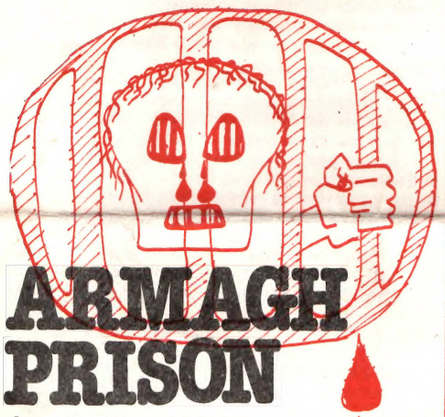
outta control

News & Views of the Belfast Anarchist Collective

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE BAC WRITE TO: B.A.C., C/O 7 WINE TAVERN ST. SMITHFIELD, BELFAST 1.

OUTTA CONTROL ... of the state, bosses, patriarchy, schooling, churches .... As Anarchists we oppose the authority and exploitation of this society, and advocate one of FREE association and self-management. This paper comes out every 2-3 weeks and we welcome contributions, criticisms etc. Next issue will be out MAY 1ST.



ARMAGH PRISON

Armagh Tribunal 1980
JUDGES FINDINGS

On April 9th 1980 a tribunal into the condition of women political prisoners in Armagh Gaol, organised by Women against Imperialism, was held in Belfast.

The panel of judges was as follows:
Marie McMahon, Feminist, Dublin
Pauline Roe, NUS Exec, delegated by NUS Women's Conference
Paula Skully, Solicitor, Dublin
Nell McCafferty, freelance journalist, Dublin
Pat Arrowsmith, Vanessa Redgrave, Frances de la Tour, Else Hautz, Amsterdam Women's Liberation Group, Therese, MLF Group, Paris.

The Tribunal heard evidence relating to the legal case for political status, the effect of its removal on the women political prisoners on health, sanitary and medical conditions, on pre and ante natal care, and evidence relating to physical attacks on women prisoners by male warders. Both written and verbal evidence was presented; ex-prisoners and relatives of prisoners were present and gave verbal evidence.

Below is the statement of findings presented by the judges to the final session of the tribunal:

"Since January 1980 there has been a sharp escalation of harassment and unprecedented punishments, delibrate systematic physical and mental torture meted out to the Women political prisoners in Armagh Gaol, which included the curtailment of toilet and washing facilities"

"While waiting for their dinner in February 7th the women were attacked and brutally beaten by a squad of approximately 40 male and 20 female warders. They were denied food and water for 24 hours and refused all access to toilet and washing facilities and forced to use chamber pots for bodily functions. They were not allowed to empty their pots in the toilets which were locked by prison warders. As a result, the women were forced to empty pots from windows."

"On Februray 13th the women were moved to 'A' Wing, deprived of all their personal belongings, and since that time it has been impossible for the women to wash and keep themselves clean. Tissues sent into the prisoners by their families were not accepted and sent out again by the prison authorities'

"As a result of this degradation, the women prisoners decided to protest through refusing all co-operation with the prison authorities until the privileges due to political prisoners were granted."

"In the six weeks following, the protesting prisoners have been locked in their cells 23 hours a day and the cell windows have been boarded up. Consequently, the women were obliged to spread the contents of their chamber pots on the walls in order to avoid sitting and lying in their own excreta"

"A particularly cruel form of suffering has been imposed on these women. During menstruation insufficient numbers of sanitary towels have been provided and the women have been forced to leave used towels on the floor."

"From the wide body of evidence presented to us by the mothers and fathers of the your young girls who have been in Armagh Prison over the last few years, the tribunal is convinced that the doctors responsible for medical care have been criminally abusing their prefession through continously denying ill and pregnant women medical attention for both minor and extremely serious ailements."

"Among these is a young girl, Pauline McLaughlin, who has lost 3½ stone in

continued on next page

LETTERMACAWARD, CO. DONEGAL MARCH 30TH. 1980.

NO URANIUM

The stopping of uranium exploration and eventual mining in Ireland is now taking new and many turns. The past 6 or 7 months have been spent trying to get across the message about uranium——its dangers, nuclear connections, and rip-offs by the mining companies in THEIR interests alone.

Such education has been most successful in Donegal, where the task of making mining 'unprofitable' for the mining companies the government, the EEC, is well under way.

People in Donegal have never felt a close affinity with the central government in Dublin, and what they dictate to them. Dongal in the 20th. century is one long story of local people being ripped-off, cut off, and abused....that's why they are reacting so strongly to the latest and potentially most dangerous rip-off. While central government ignores the potentials of fishing, turf, etc., yet subsidises the mining companies in their search for uranium, the feeling is clearly-- NO WAY!!

The feeling is strong throughout the county and explains why local villagers have moved on the drillers from about their homes, (as has happened a few times this month in the Gweebarra valley area); why local professionals have formed themselves into committees; why hundreds of people have been on the march (Lettermacaward, March 30th.); and why the machinery and offices of Irish Base Metals and Munster Base Metals have been sabotaged.

The mining companies have said nothing throughout,....they see propaganda as a problem for central government and the local gardai. But the meetings, the marches, the sabotage,-----the whole feeling of the area is so against them, that they are being forced to act, if they want to continue their exploration work. They have ignored the people and are only now beginning to realise their blunder. So now the state rushes in with a new propaganda drive...the Nuclear Energy Board has been ordered to put 'the govt. case'. Fortunately it's too little, too late-but it'll be interesting to see how it goes. THERE WILL BE NO URANIUM MINING IN DONEGAL! The future, however, must include useful and creative employment, if 'no uranium mining' is to have any positive meaning at all.

ONE-TONE MU$IC

OVER-EXPOSURE OF UNDERTONES

The Undertones have just released their second LP which is likely to go straight into the charts, no doubt to achieve similar success as Stiff Little Fingers.

In the last issue of our paper we exposed the Stiffs for what they were, sellout hypocritical posers. However the Undertones haven't consiously sold out but are more the victims of the music business.

The Undertones were initially given the opportunity to make their first single by Good Vibrations. Good Vibes were following in the growing trend of setting up a small independant record label. On a shoe-string budget they hoped to give as many local groups as possible the opportunity to make a record. The major record companies would only give you a recording contract if they decided your music was for 'mass consumption' That's if the company ever got round to ever listening to your demo which was competing with thousands of of others.

The Undertones made and released their EP on the Good Vibes label. It was promoted

Undertones continued on back page

Armagh Prison continued from previous page.. weight, is vomiting continually, and cannot eat the food provided"

"Another, Maria McClenaghan, has a burst duodenal ulcer and also is denied a special diet. Pregnant women are denied of ante natal care and deprived of access to their children when born"

"Under these conditions these women are immediately susceptible to a variety of internal infections such as cystitis, conditions which can result in premanent sterility and even death"

"This cruel and inhuman treatment is being meted out to women who are merely seeking the right of political status that has been previously been granted to women now incarcerated in another wing of the same prison"

"We the tribunal are unanimously in solidarity with the demands that the wome n in Armagh, and their brothers in the Kesh, who have been convicted by no jury courts on alleged offences, scheduled as political by the Emergency Provisions Act 1978, be given political status and that all political prisoners be immediately released from prison"

"We are unanimously in solidarity with their continuous struggle to free Ireland from British Imperialism, and we find the British Government guilty of torture and criminal oppression against the Irish people.

THE REAL SCROUNGERS

Alongside the British military boot, we all have to contend with their economic boot which is currently jumping up and down on top of us. In February, Reg Prentice, Min. of State for Social Security, announced the appointment of 1000 new officers to tackle fraud and abuse...he predicted they would 'save' £50m. of the £200m. to be 'lost' over the coming yeat. A few queries...where do the figures come from? and what will the new officers really be doing?

It seems that the DHSS officials worked on the basis that just as large department stores lose between 1% and 2% to theft, so the DHSS must lose likewise. 1% of DHSS turnover is £190m., and when rounded up, it becomes £200m. The last figures given were in March 1979, when 'irrecoverable' overpayment through fraud was £3:9m.---and guess what--- during the same period bureaucratic errors amounted to £13:2m! (puts things in perspective, doesn't it?)

At present the fraud detection hot squad (special investigators) save three times their cost..or so Prentice says. £3m. on special investigators will save £9m., he claims. But these new officers will not necessarily be 'special investigators'......500 of them are going to be 'Unemployment Review Of ficers' whose job it is to stop the long-termed unemployed from claiming. They can cut benefit or stop it altogether if they consider 'claimants fail, without justification, to find work'. They can initiate prosecutions for 'failure to maintain oneself or ones dependents'....usually the threat is enough to get claimants off their books. The DHSS do not give figures for UNDERPAYMENT...the Child Poverty Action Group estimate it at £344m. per year!!!

The next biggest increase in personnel are to be found in the new fraud officers and Liable Relative Officers,170 of each. The LRO job is quite simply to get hold of people (usually deserting fathers) who are considered to be responsible for dependents relatives that are receiving benefits, and extort money from them. Women are usually put under a lot of pressure to make statements etc.... to help prosecute the deserters(who have no money) to get them to pay the benefits rather than the SS. Yet again, there is no fraud involved. The other new staff are fraud officers and 100 special investigators. These are the ones who rise with the dawn to sit outside the homes of women claimants to spot any men coming out. As far as the DHSS is concerned, a woman who has a man to stay for more than 3 days is 'living with him'.

There are some interesting comparisons...tax fraud, for instance,,is in excess of £3000m. a year. The DHSS has over 5,500 officers engaged in fraud and abuse investigations, while the inland revenue have 260 officers. And of these, just 10 are enquiry officers (special investigators) to cover the whole country. Last year the DHSS prosecuted 29,000 people(with a 98% conviction rate)...the Inland Revenue prosecuted 184 people. With unemployment here being so high, we can expect more than our fair share of state snoopers!

The Electricity Service has acquired some new 'special investigators' as well...the British Army....The brits have been involved in a number of incidents of turning electric supplies off on behalf of the Electric Board in W.Belfast!

HANDS ACROSS THE WATER

A member of the B.A.C. was recently invited by the Midlands Anarchist Federation to show video programmes on repression in N.Ireland at 3 venues. These videos are mainly interviews with people who have been tortured, been through Diplock Courts, who have been in the H-Blocks or Armagh Prison.

In Birmingham a lively discussion between anarchists, republicans, and marxiststook place, with a critique of the latter two's statism and nationalism. But just as important is that such a critique has caused most of the anarchists and libertarians in England to avoid doing anything about the British governments repression in N.Ireland.It was soon realised that you don't have to support republicanism or the vagueness of the Troops out movements' 'self-determination for the Irish people' (Irish priests and capitalists?) to expose the repressive and reactionary role of the British state presence here.

The nature of political status also makes many anarchists hesitate, because of their defence of all prisoners struggles, and the eventual abolition of all prisons. But weighed against this are the no-jury courts and the systematic torture used to get confessions.

Leicester anarchists are already active in prison pickets (along with their other prison work) and anti-recruitment work. The showing of the videos in the community centre there was not followed by a discussion after the BAC statement was read out....because everyone agreed! and proved it again with a good financial collection towards the cost of the tapes.

In Nottingham the discussion was mainly on how to get accross information on whats happening in N Ireland to most English people whose view is distorted. The Anarchists argued strongly against persuading the Labour Party to do anything, but instead advocated direct communication with people in the town via leaflets at army recruitment stalls. The Midlands Federation will hopefully encourage and co-ordinate more recruitment against the troops presence here, and the condition in H-Block and Armagh.

T.C.—Top Control

Our society operates from the top down..... it's not an unbreakable law of nature, but rather it's what happens when a few men own and control the means of our existence. And we, in turn, mirror their hierarchial structures. The few develop their own agencies and structures to stay on top, directing the future paths.....and always at our expense and on our backs. At the very top of that structure is the TRI-LATERAL COMMISSION

But first, a bit of history.......

Following World War 2, the US were clearly the leading Western economic country, with ½ of the world's imports and exports. Every place else was in a strict pecking order, with all international trade regulated in the interests of US capitalists through the IMF, World Bank, and various international trade regulations. Others benefited accordingly in the trade boom of 1945-1971, especially W.Europe, Japan, and those countries integrated into this system by US capital and US arms----Iran, Brazil, S.Korea, Mexico. Things went well for US industrialists and bankers, though as the world market declined (US consumption levels were neither wanted nor possible everywhere, and W.European/Japanese competition increased), American capitalists started to suffer.

Nixon's devaluation of the dollar in 1971 signalled their big trouble, and the world economic order with US capital firmly in control was starting to crumble. The Tri-Lateral Commission (composed of leading industrialists, bankers, top politicans, diplomats, selected 'academics', journalists,and top union bosses from US, W.Europe, and Japan) is their answer to their problem.

The Tri-Lateral Commission (TC) was formally set up in 1972, co-ordinated by the world's leading industrialist and banker-- David Rockerfeller-- whose interests include every dirty deal imaginable in oil, industry, banking, and third world investment. The TC was a recognition by US capitalists that if they were to continue to pollute and control the rest of us, then the leading industrialists and politicans of W.Europe and Japan would have to get in on the act too.

The first meeting of the TC in 1972 was at Rockerfellers mansion near New York, and one of the co-founders of the scheme was an unknown academic of russian studies Z.Brzezinski--who just a few years later was to become US National Security Adviser. The new world government was born, and another unknown who was asked to join was J.Carter, who soon made it to the top!

Such was the procedure throughout the US, W.Europe, and Japan---it was the big capitalist school for deciding WHO was to be in power, and what policies to be followed....whether it be oil, nuclear power, finance, arms, detente--THEY decide OUR futures!!

The TC meets from time to time to review past strategies and keep themselves firmly in control in the future...their last meeting was at the Institute of Directors, London. this March 23-25. It got little press coverage all discussions secret, but the guest list included leading US, W. European and Japanese bakers, industrialists and future politicians including Kissinger, Coca Cola, Fiat, Dunlop, GEC, Barclays, RTZ and Garret Fitzgerald! Many of its members have a direct financial interest in nuclear development. When the TC steers members to positions of power, they become ex-members like British Foreign Secretary Carrington, US President Carter and even Michael O'Kennedy! The new world technocratic govt. exists, and we didn't even know they were having a meeting.

This month, a counterpart of the TC-- the BILDERBERG GROUP...it has its annual meeting soon...April 18-20th. at Aachen near Bonn. Although the Bilderberg Group was originally set up in the 1950's, it now works closely with the TC, and likewise is composed of leading Western bosses and controllers including D.Rockerfeller. Its members have included Heath, Wilson, Callaghan, Thatcher, Powell, Dunlop, ICI, BP, Ford, Kissinger, Carter, D'Estaing, Schmidt, Carrington, and K.Joseph. Little is known about April's guest-list, though Lord Home is to step down from the chair to be replaced by Scheel, the W.German ex-President. It will no doubt discuss ways of implementing the decisions made by the TC in March...and once again we must wait for the effects, as their secrecy is maintained.

This we do know...they are the ones behind the rip-offs and starvation in the third world, behind world development of nuclear energy, and the arms industry, behind world food shortages and junk food, and behind much of our daily plastic-life. And we are the ones they depend on...duping us into believing that what's good for them will benefit us!!

IRISH MEMBERS OF THE TC.:May 1979.

Michael Killen--Managing Director of the Industrial Development Authority.
Richard Conroy--Irish Senate.
Garret Fitzgerald--Fine Gael.
Mary Robinson--Irish Senate.
Myles Staunton--Irish Senate.
Kenneth Whitaker--Senate, and former govenor of the Bank of Ireland.
Michael Woods--T.D.
Interesting bunch, aren't they?

"ANTI-NUCLEAR CAFE" EVERY SATURDAY AT "JUST BOOKS" 7 WINETAVERN ST, SMITHFIELD, BELFAST... | "TROOPS ON TURF" — GUIDE TO GOOD LITERATURE ON IRELAND, AVAILABLE FROM 'JUST BOOKS' | PRINTED BY US ON AB DICK 331!

ABORTION

Abortion has come into the limelight in Northern Ireland with the recent defeat of the Corrie bill and the announcement by the Belfast Womens Law and Research Group that they were setting up an unofficial committee of inquiry into womens feelings and experiences on abortion. Together with contraception, free, safe abortion on demand gives women the choice of planning their families, how many children they want, whether they want to have children at all.

DO WE EVEN WANT THE 1967 ABORTION ACT?

The law in Britain is a much more humane one than here, where the maximum penalty for procuring or helping to procure an abortion is life imprisonment, but it does have a lot of drawbacks.

Over half the abortions performed are in private clinics where women have to pay upwards to £100, even though they are entitled to one free on the National Health Service. Abortions are an exception on the NHS because the 1967 Act did not *guarantee* that abortion facilities would be set up. It merely gave a freedom in law for the medical profession to choose whether they wanted to perfom abortions or not.

This has led to differences in the regional areas of Britain, Birmingham being a well quoted example. Because of the influence of SPUC, it is almost impossible to get an abortion.....in one major hospital in Birmingham only 2 abortions were carried out on the NHS in one year. With the political opposition here, the Church, and the backward views held in society where women are concerned, it is conceivable that many parts of Northern Ireland would be like Birmingham, and that if extended, the 1967 Act would do nothing more for women than save them the cost of the boat fare to England. Under the 1967 Act a woman still has to go and ask two doctors for an abortion. It is not like any other medical procedure. The onus is on the doctor to interpret the law. Is this a 'grave' and 'serious' case sitting in the chair opposite him? Does he agree with abortion anyway? Many women cannot go and ask their doctor for contraception, how much more difficult to ask for an abortion.....

DAY CARE ABORTION CLINICS

If abortion was legalised in the North, the National Health Service would not be able to meet the demand (over 2,000 women go to England each year for an abortion), for an increase in facilities. Even if they wanted to expand the continuing cuts in public spending would prevent them.

Hospitals are impersonal places anyway, as many women who have had hospital births will testify. Power, mystification and male bias is wrapped up in a white coat with all the possible medical answers for doing it their way, an experience quite devastating even to those women who feel they know something about childbirth, the drugs on offer and the medical professions attitude to women. Would it be any different with abortion? Not so long ago in London, in a Catholic hospital, women who had had abortions were put in the same ward as women who had lost their babies as a matter of policy and looked upon as wicked, an extreme no doubt, but those opposed to abortion can express hostility to the patient in many other ways.

Some of our communities already have health centres incorporating half a dozen GPs, family planning services and community nurses and midwives. It is possible that these could be expanded to include a day care abortion clinic too. Abortions carried out by vacuum aspiration under 10 weeks are not a medical problem. It is straightforward and one of the safest surgical procedures known (safer than having your tonsills out). Abortion takes 10 minutes and is done under local or general anaesthetic and the woman can generally go home the same day. Given that there was hospital back up for unexpected complications abortion done this way is less traumatic for the woman who would have to wait weeks for a hospital bed., it is also considerably cheaper than admitting a woman as an in patient in a hospital. There are other advantages too, community nurses would be able to give supportive after care service, contraceptive advice and examinations and some level of specialisation would mean the service would be more efficient than annexing abortions onto the gynaecology ward of a large hospital. The idea of community day care abortion makes it possible for nurses to have a more varied work life—doing abortion after abortion in a clinic, like any repetitive job, becomes psychologically draining.

THE CUTS

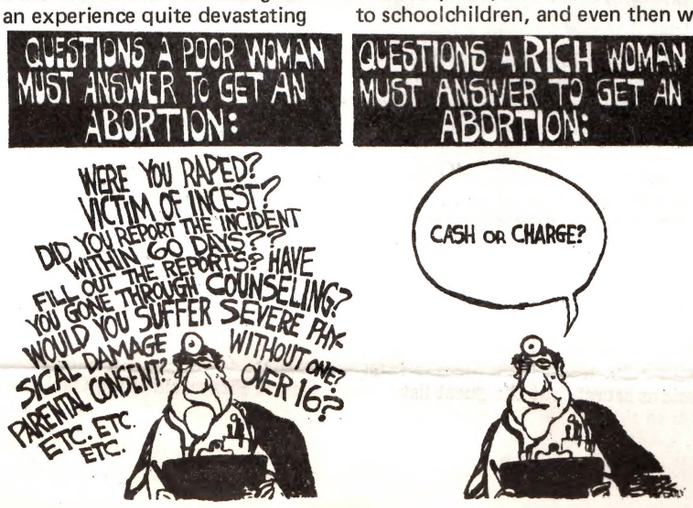
In any area where the Government wants to economise you can be certain that services for women will be in the front line. Health is no exception. Women deciding to go ahead with their pregnancies are finding that maternity services, particulary in country districts are being cut and centralised into larger hospitals in the town, often miles away from where they live. Women who don't go to England, because of lack of knowledge or money, and who go to the backstreet abortionist in desperation with all the added risks and possible death, are seeing money spent on emergency and casualty departments being cut.

WHAT CHOICE, ABORTION?

To be able to choose abortion is meaningless if there are no adequate facilities provided free. Abortion as a choice has to be in the context of good community childcare — day care nurseries, playgroups, crèches, after school hours centres for older children, so that a woman has a real choice whther or not to have the child. For better dessemination of knowledge on contraception, sex and childbirth especially to schoolchildren, and even then when a woman decides to go ahead and have the child, she has to struggle with the prospect of unemployment or low wages. In this social context, abortion is not a choice, it is a necessity.

IDEALLY.....

It would be great to see the development of womens self help clinics, to advise and help women to become strong and well, to dispel the ignorance women have of their own bodies and the awe in which they view the medical profession. With only the beginnings of a womens movement in Ireland and such views held in society that *abortion is an imperialist plot to control the Catholic population*, this seems light years away. Any legislation passed in the future on abortion in Northern Ireland, will mean the same economic exploitation of womens bodies and the same passive roles of women having abortions. It will still be the poor women who can't get an abortion easily, who didn't get contraceptive advice and supplies, who is still struggling to feed and clothe her children adequately.



DIPLOCKS COURT ATTENTION

The RUC are annoyed, the press are confused, and the rule is proved by the exception. Edward Brophy, tho' facing 4 years for membership of the provos, was last week acquited of the La Mon bombing. His case was unusual for 3 reasons - the amount of press attention, the enormity of the charges against him, and the fact that he got off!

How many men in Long Kesh and women in Armagh have gone through the same experiences as Brophy, both at the hands of the RUC and the no jury, no evidence courts?[

The RUC are annoyed not only because they didn't "get their man" but the way the case was highlighted has proved embarassing for them (if the RUC can be embarassed given the Amnesty International and Bennett reports)

The press are confused because they can't draw the obvious conclusions, but instead like the laborious liberal Guardian, suggest that while the case can be used as propaganda against the RUC, it can be also evidence of the fairness of the Diplock Courts (note that its not "evidence" against the RUC, and propaganda for the Diplock Courts)

Justice Kelly must be glad of the RUCs occasional incompetence (at framing people) which allows him to acquit the odd case (as he had to do 2 years ago with Billy Forbes of Strabane) These overshadow the hundreds of cases where he's sent hundreds of people down, and would you believe it shows how fair he is!

Footnote: The "Economist" claims that there are no juries in N.Ireland because nobody will sit on them!! Of course its nothing to do with their inability to convict as quick and as often as judges.

"EVERYBODY HAS THEIR PRICE - BUT SOME ARE ON SPECIAL OFFER"---- E. McNAB.

Following the growing trend of lefties keeping their politics seperate from their work i.e. Tariq Ali writing for the right wing Daily Telegraph, Paul Foot's column in the Daily Star and Venessa Redgraves sexist films we have our own home grown variety. Eamonn McCann, the well known Derry Marxist and TV hack is sub-editor of the Sunday World which surely must take the biscuit as the most trivial, shoch horror probe, red under the bed sexist Sunday paper in Ireland.

MAKE UP YOUR OWN MIND AT THE ARTS THEATRE FRI 1st MAY 1pm: STRIKE.

WOMENS DEFENCE COURSE STARTING AT THE OPEN COLLEGE...

from NAMIBIA to BELFAST

Sitting in Belfast, it's very difficult to see beyond the purely physical aspects of imperialism...troops, guns, prisons.....but there is much more to it than that. It's not just getting rid of one form of capitalist government----it goes deeper and ultimeately MUST involve changing our whole way of life! It must mean the END of the multinational destruction of the resources of this and other countries in the interests of Western plastic consumerism and profit.
One such struggle is going on in NAMIBIA.

During the 17th.,18th. and 19th. centuries, Southern Africa was just another playground for British colonial control---replacing local ways and cultures in the service of the few sitting at home. In 1890 Britain 'gave' Namibia to friendly imperialists Germany,who,in turn, slaughtered any local resistance to control the agricultural land and the mines. Riches for the few, servitude for the many (capitalism) was well on its way.

Following the division of the spoils after World War1,S.Africa(with British 'aid') took control of Namibia and a new era was born. The state and employers regulated all labour,forcing small farmers off the land into the lead,zinc,and diamond mines---into the service of the Western capitalists greed for minerals. No unions,no strikes,and barbed wire compounds as part of their 'contract'. The riches of Namibia became vital for the apartheid economy of S.Africa.

A new turn of events came with the shake-ups following World War 2...the United Nations were given trusteeship of Namibia, to work towards its independence. But Namibian diamonds,tin,copper fish,and cattle were too important to S.Africa who imposed a form of direct rule. They destroyed all forms of labour organisation, shooting resisters, and intensifying mining----particularly with the S.African governments open invitation to international monoplies to come in and share the spoils.

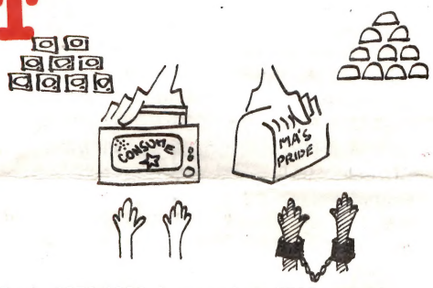
Namibia's dependence on S.Africa and the multinationals got worse, with industry restricted to commodities for export and no local manufacturing industry developing. A straight forward domination and exploitation of the land and the people by the S.African ruling elite, by multi-nationals, with the guarantee of low taxes and ease of getting profits out of the country.

Such repression means resistance, and its organised form became SWAPO (S. West African Peoples Organisation) which emerged in the 50's, armed struggle in the 60's, and by the 70's SWAPO were emphasising not just a national resistance, but a class struggle as well. (It remains to be seen whether they replace the exploiters with local bureaucrats, technocrats, and state-capitalists!). SWAPO activities forced the United Nations to declare S.African interests and control of Namibia as illegal, and the UN Security Council is slowly negotiating a S.African withdrawal which they hope will leave multi-national capital firmly in control.* But it's taking a long time for the world super-government to get S.Africa out of Namibia, since declaring their occupation to be illegal in 1971... WHY?

Apart from the fact that the UN Security Council is formed of those countries most active in exploiting the resources of Namibia (US, Germany, Britain, Canada,and France), one thing above all else keeps them there---URANIUM.

Just about the same time that the UN Security Council said Namibia was to become independent, Western nuclear development needed increasing amounts of uranium. And Namibia has plenty of it. The huge ROSSING uranium mine started production in 1976---capital intensive open-cast mining. Although the ore grades are very low, it is very profitable because of the incentives offered by S.Africa. The 'big 5' say on the one hand that S.A. occupation is illegal and they should get out, and on the other hand they are financing and benefiting from that occupation.

Rossing is managed by Rio Tinto Zinc (Britain), though France, S.Africa, and the US also have a stake. Britain has a 6-year contract(signed by T.



Benn..1976-1982..) to purchase 7500 tons of uranium oxide, some of it for its civil programme and the rest for military use. S.Africa, with nuclear partners Israel and W.Germany, rely on Namibian uranium for their military nuclear programmes. W.Germany does very well by supplying much of the mining machinery. France is building S.Africa a nuclear plant at Cape Town, and even the Soviet Union get in on the act...by enriching the Rossing uranium for Iran and W.Germany!!AMAZING.

No wonder the UN Security Council is remarkably slow at trying to get S.Africa out of Namibia, and no wonder the governments of Britain,France, W.Germany, and N.America remain quiet....the Rossing mine won't last for ever, and clearly the plunder of the nuclear fuel is more important than the people of Namibia who are suffering and dying

The mining companies in Namibia are the mining companies in Ireland---R.T.Z., Minatome, Amax---They are in Namibia, they are here. The same share holders, the same mentality, the same machinery.

Fighting imperialism in all its many forms must include a new way of developing our resources, a new style of living, and not just swapping governments!

*
The S.African and multi-national choice for govt. in Namibia (i.e. one that won't hinder their commercial interests in any way) is the obscure and unknown DTA party led by Dirk Mudge. It will be interesting to see how such powerful backings will enable them to 'grow' in the coming year!

Downtown Sexuality

The Downtown Radio Phone In programme is usually low key, unprovocative and generally slow to upset the commercial interests which own and advertise in it.

On one programme they choose as their debate - abortion. In keeping with their concept of balance, they had 3 pro and 3 anti-abortion on the panel, and though most of the phone in calls expressed anti-abortion views, the Belfast Womens Collective made sure of making up for that in time. (A little note here is the delay of about 10seconds when you phone them until they broadcast, to enable censorship if necessary)

Their concept of fairness is to ignore present realities in N.Ireland and you would need 100 panelists, each arguing ½ hour each week in favour of abortion, to compensate for the air time given to religious, commercial and state ideology which has most of us accepting that a women's role is to sexually please men, and take the consequences.

Just listen to the adverts; and the hypocritical arguments for the "right to life" from those who promote the religious strangl-ation of young sexuality, and ignore or defend British Army repression in the North.

Well its women who get pregnant, and its them to decide if they want to go through with 9 months pregnancy and the experience of childbirth, to bring an unwanted child into the world. Its not for male doctors politicians or priests to decide. The right of women to have control over their bodies is fundamental. The foetus is a part of their body, a living part, but not an independant human existance.

CUT THEM OUT!

The thing about the 'cuts-day-of-action-march-rally' at the City Hall (April 2nd.) was how much of a drag the whole thing was. And not because so few made the journey. NO spirit of resistence will ever come from standing around in silence listening to boring male bureaucrats drone on about how their members suffer, or being asked to buy Militant half a dozen times by people who can't smile! A long, long way from the feelings of solidarity, strength, and energy that can only come without parasites planning a show for spectators. Another spectacle is planned for May 1st, and again on May 14th.

If the creativity of SELF-ORGANISATION were to be wrested from the trade union bureaucrats , that is the start of being effective, rather than symbolic. Demonstrations DON'T have to be like funerals, women and children DON'T have to stay at home...though some women have been arguing for years just to get a womens banner in the annual May-Day march...my, how the male hierarchy feels threatened!!

It's all a far cry from what is possible..take the CNT in Spain...an anarchist trade union organised without leaders by and for the workers (all 250,000 of them!), ...everyone can have their say, everyone does, AND STILL BE EFFECTIVE. Perhaps it's time to reply to government cuts with a few cuts of our own..like our T.U. leaders.... ALL LEADERS!!

Undertones continued from front cover
by Good Vibes as best as they could. John Peele, sympathetic to Ulster bands, constistently played it and Kid Jensen decided to make it his 'Record of the Week' Thus ensuring regular air-play and almost guaranteeing that it would become a hit.

But big problems for good vibes! They had only enough money to press a couple of thousand records. They would need a lot more pressed to meet the expected demand. And even if they did have the money to press more records how would they get the records distributed' to all the record shops aroung Britain? Only major record companies were able to have country-wide distribution. A real headache for the small Good Vibes label.

Sniffing out a good deal when they smell one in jets lipsmackin' arse lickin' smooth talkin' quick dealin' rip-offin' Sire Records . They quickly put together a recording contract guaranteing the group enough money to live on while making further records for the Sire label and took control of their hit EP Teenage Kicks" releasing it on their own label.

Good Vibes had no alternative but to let the group sign on with Sire and felt that maybe their only role was through making records to gain recognition by the major record companies.

Very altruistic of them, but all that leaves Good Vibes with is a couple of quid compp-anies like Sire give them for the privilege while they exploit the best of the Good Vibes label and go on to make thousands. No wonder Good Vibes have no money to get out their back log of recording tapes. Could anything have been done, was there any escape out of the dilema?

Perhaps the Undertones could have signed to make only one LP with Sire and then made the next on the Good Vibes label. No doubt through the success of their first album enough money could have been raised to produce and promote their next! This would have contributed towards a local successful record label promoting an alternative culture and further giving local bands the opportunity to make records.

Maybe they could make a bootleg record for Good Vibes to help their ailing finances or at least organise a benefit gig?

BAKUNIN (MICHAEL) FIRST PRESENTED ANARCHISM AS A CONSISTENT POLITICAL THEORY. BESIDES BEING ACTIVE IN MANY EUROPEAN INSURECTIONS, HE ALSO EPITOMISED FEDERAL SOCIALISM IN THE 1ST INTERNATIONAL IN OPPOSITION TO THE AUTHORITARIAN + STATIST SOCIALISM OF MARX + THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS.